

October 1, 1999

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97-81

Senator Tom Harkin  
731 Hart Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> & C Street NE  
Washington DC 20510

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sir:

SUBJECT: MAS Frequency Freeze and Auction

We are writing in reference to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) current freeze and future auction of the non-subscriber based 928/952/956 MHz multiple address frequencies. These frequencies are used by Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO), our generation and transmission electric cooperative, to monitor and control power flow and to provide meter reading for our customers in western Iowa. Under the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, the FCC has been given the authority to auction off these frequencies in an effort to create monies for the federal government. The auctions appear to have the primary goal of creating a cash flow for the government with little regard for the financial considerations of those that are using the frequencies today, and the associated reliable supply of electric energy for the nation that goes along with these frequencies.

We respectfully request you contact William Kennard, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Telecommunications and Subcommittee Chairman W.J. Tauzin and indicate how important these frequencies are to our utility operations, and inform them there are no other practical alternatives for the multiple address frequencies. Also, respectfully request that the FCC lift the licensing freeze on non-subscriber based MAS operations, such as utilities use, and indefinitely grandfather those that are currently licensed on these frequencies.

Please note to them that we fully support United Telecom Council's (UTC's) emergency request to the FCC to reassess the freeze and protect current licenses using these MAS frequencies in Docket 97-81.

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*We put Value on the line*

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